



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary

January 22, 2015 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

Introductions and MassDEP Updates

MassDEP provided several updates:

Carpet and Mattress Recycling: John Fischer provided an update on carpet and mattress recycling. MassDEP is beginning to focus on improving the management of two new waste streams – carpet and mattresses. Both materials have historically low recycling rates, limited markets, and are bulky and difficult to manage. Some recently emerging markets are available, but little source separation is happening.

MassDEP expects to offer a new grant to municipalities through the 2015 Sustainable Materials Recovery Program to incentivize collection and recycling of mattresses and carpet. The grant is expected to provide a processing and transportation subsidy for up to two years. Concurrent with this grant program, MassDEP is working to develop a statewide contract for carpet and mattress recycling. The grant application is expected to be available in April 2015, with applications due in June 2015. The proposed grants also could fund roll-off containers if a larger container is not feasible.

Organics Updates: Jamie Doucett provided an introduction for a discussion planned for the next MassDEP Organics Subcommittee, scheduled for February 9, 2015. This discussion will focus on the management of high solids source separated organics materials and what are the options and infrastructure needs for how this material could be best prepared for use in anaerobic digestion facilities seeking low solids organics streams. This discussion will also include the management of packaged food materials. Among other topics, MassDEP and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center are interested in recommendations for steps the Commonwealth should consider taking to leverage progress in this area.

John Fischer provided an update on two new initiatives that will be implemented through the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program:

1. **Compost Site Technical Assistance** – RecyclingWorks will be developing a program to offer a specified amount of technical assistance to compost sites that are either currently

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accepting food waste or planning to accept food waste for composting. This could be available to either existing or new sites. This program would be modeled after the RecyclingWorks technical assistance program for business recycling and composting. Sites would receive up to a specified number of hours of technical assistance that would include at least one site visit and recommendations for how the compost facility can improve existing operations or develop a successful new operation to start.

2. **Food Donation Best Management Practices** – RecyclingWorks will hold several stakeholder meetings, including state and local health officials, food banks and food rescue organizations, and large food donors, discussing best management practices for food donation. This process will be modeled after RecyclingWorks' earlier initiative to develop best management practice recommendations for food waste collection. Concurrent with this, the Harvard Food Law Policy Clinic will work with MassDEP and RecyclingWorks to develop food donation fact sheets on the topics of food date labeling, liability protection, and tax incentives for food donation. The goal of this work is to develop clear, transparent information that can support increased donation, of safe food to those in need.

Solid Waste Regulations Implementation: Third Party Inspections and Transfer Station Certifications

John Fischer and Tom Adamczyk presented an updated on requirements for third party inspections at solid waste facilities and transfer station certifications. This presentation is posted along with this meeting summary.

Revised MassDEP Asbestos Regulations

Mike Elliott of MassDEP provided a presentation summarizing recent changes to MassDEP's asbestos regulations. This presentation is also posted along with the meeting notes. Participants raised the following questions and comments.

Question: What does a resident need to do if they have asbestos containing material that requires disposal?

Response: Although a resident could conceivably dispose of his/her own non-friable asbestos-containing waste materials; the logistics, equipment and supplies requirements are somewhat challenging, so in practice, they would probably arrange disposal through a licensed contractor. In the case of friable asbestos, the resident is not allowed to dispose of it themselves. In the latter case, the friable ACWM would need to be collected and disposed of through a licensed contractor. Contractors will typically conduct "milk run" collections to pick up small quantities of asbestos containing materials for disposal.

Comment: The asbestos inspection training required for staff at solid waste facilities is generally not a good fit, as it tends to deal with asbestos in buildings and schools. It would be helpful to have an asbestos inspector course better suited to solid waste facilities.

Response: The Department of Labor and Standards certifies asbestos worker training. MassDEP will assess this need further and consider soliciting proposals from training providers to develop a more focused training curriculum targeted at this particular audience. DLS has informed MassDEP informally that the training requirements of asbestos waste ban inspectors at

SW facilities does not fall under their purview, so MassDEP is free to establish whatever requirements for such a curriculum that it deems appropriate.

Soils Management Meetings Update

Sarah Weinstein, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of MassDEP's Bureau of Air and Waste, described the status of on-going efforts to develop policies and regulations that will determine the suitability of soil fill projects for using soil that is generated at other sites and contains measurable concentrations of oil and/or hazardous materials. This soil may be used to reclaim quarries, sand pits and gravel pits (as addressed in a section of the State's Budget for Fiscal Year 2015) and may also be used to level or fill land for other purposes. MassDEP is developing a risk-based scheme that would establish the types of soil that may be considered to be "suitable" to be used in different types of receiving locations: more environmentally sensitive receiving locations may require more MassDEP oversight unless they will only accept soil with very low levels of oil and/or hazardous materials, while less environmentally sensitive receiving locations may be allowed to accept soil with higher levels of oil and/or hazardous materials with less MassDEP oversight. MassDEP is also considering what types of local approvals can be relied on to ensure that the community that houses the receiving location (both local officials and neighbors of the project) aware of the project and have had an opportunity to provide input. This project has two over-arching goals: 1) to avoid the creation of new releases of oil and hazardous material that would be reportable to MassDEP under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, and 2) to ensure that the receiving locations do not become solid waste "dumps" under M.G.L. c. 111, section 150A.

MassDEP is hoping to publish draft regulations on this topic in spring 2015 for public comment. The Department may issue an "Interim Policy" that would clarify that the Department will oversee reclamation projects that receive more than 100,000 cubic yards of soil (not structural fill used for construction) through the development of individual Administrative Consent Orders for receiving locations that want to start their projects before the final regulations have been promulgated.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 23, 2015 at MassDEP's Boston office.